

has been endowed by nature with such an assortment of geographic conditions that the ways of life in many areas of the globe may be studied without journeying beyond the boundaries of the State. Here are suitable materials for the study of agricultural, industrial, and commercial life of many types.

It has been said that in the past North Carolinians have been too busy fighting the forces of nature and chopping a path through the wilderness to develop a culture rich in the fine arts. This is no doubt true to some extent, but much of this belief is due to a failure on the part of the public to be informed about the real contributions North Carolinians have made in the fields of folk songs, folk plays, literature, music and art. The achievements of our people in these fields are worthy and notable even though frequently omitted in our studies and consequently not fully appreciated by our citizenship. Indeed, this is a field too long neglected when such outstanding success has been achieved therein by native sons. The mere mention of the names of O. Henry, John Charles McNeill, Paul Green, Thomas Dixon, Lula Vollmer, Thomas Wolfe, and other North Carolinians who have made notable contributions to the cultural heritage of our nation is enough to emphasize the need for more enlightenment along this line. The public school should definitely accept the responsibility for transmitting our cultural heritage to the youth of North Carolina and should faithfully discharge this obligation.

North Carolina is a land of great personalities. In our struggles to gain a foothold in the wilderness and to set up a government wherein men can enjoy freedom, equality, and justice, great characters have risen up to lead our people onward in a steady cavalcade of progress. In colonial days Richard Caswell led a people intent upon self-government and Daniel Boone blazed a trail through the wilderness beyond the mountains to push our frontier still farther westward. A century and a half ago William R. Davie championed the cause of education and led the people to establish a State university, the oldest in point of service of any in our nation. In the early nineteenth century Archibald Murphey pioneered in the field of public education and internal improvements. In modern times James B. Duke rose to importance as a world figure in industry. The lives of such men present biographies from which may arise some of our most effective citizenship training. Through the stories of our great leaders can come the realization that the character of North Carolina is only the reflection of the character of her citizenship; that we are all in one way or another makers of North Carolina.